REMARKS

Responsive to the Final Official Action dated February 28, 2006, the claims are now amended differently from the amendments proposed previously.

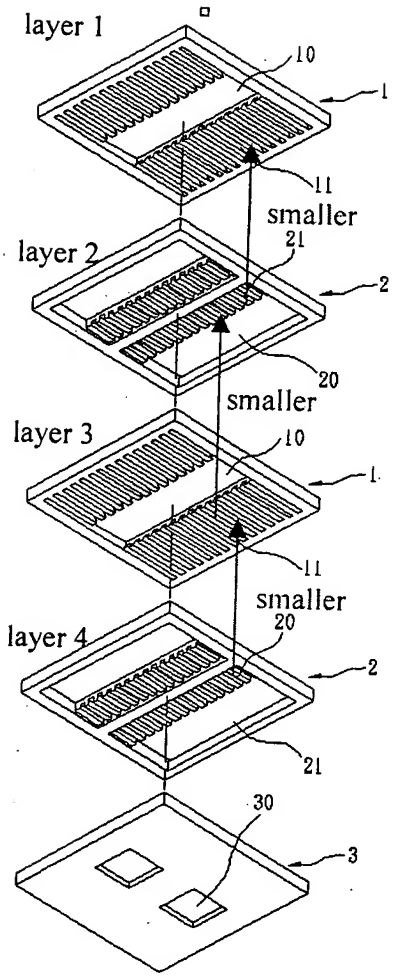
Proposed Drawing Change. A replacement Fig. 5 is submitted to correct a drafting error. The old Fig. 5 showed incorrect orientations of the structures 1 relative to the structures 2 and 3; in Fig. 5, the structures 1 are rotated by 90 degrees around a vertical axis, so that if the structures shown in Fig. 5 had been compressed together while retaining their incorrectly-illustrated rotational orientations, the resulting sandwich would conflict with original claim 1 (reciting "a plurality of through channel structures [2] respectively connected to the filtering channel structures [1], wherein each defines a second through hole [20] *connected to* [aligned with] the first concave portion [11]") and also with Figs. 6 and 9. The correct orientations of the structures 1 are shown in Fig. 4.

The proposed drawing change does not conflict with the original disclosure, because the original disclosure did specify the rotational orientations of the Fig. 5 structures.

The Examiner is invited to consider that sandwich resulting from collapse of Fig. 5 would not filter anything, contrary to the rest of the disclosure.

Specification. The specification is amended to support the new claim language. No new matter is entered.

Decreasing Channel Openings. The Applicant's channels have openings, e.g., the openings 121 shown in Fig. 7. In Fig. 5, a filtering channel structure (layer 1) stacks vertically on a through channel structure (layer 2), and so on alternately with layers 3, 4, ... The meaning of *the width of the opening of channels is always smaller than that of channels stacking over thereon* in base claim 9 is as follows: The width of the opening of the layer 2 is smaller than that of layer 1, the width of the opening of the layer 3 is smaller than that of layer 2, the width of the opening of layer 4 is smaller than the layer 3 and so on.



The beginning of the Summary describes that "the different channel widths of the two channel structures are used to filter blood cells of different sizes." The specification also discloses, "Referring to FIG. 8, each of the through channel structures 2 respectively connects to the filtering channel structures 1 by an anode joint so as to provide *more than two filtering* effects" (page 4, lines 3-5; emphasis added). The Abstract also states "a plurality of filtering channel structures, each having ... a plurality of through channel structures [and] filtering channel structures [that is, each channel structure is a pair like 1 and 2 in Fig. 5]. Each defines a second through hole opposite the first concave portion, whereby the filtering channel structures are respectively attached to the through channel structures to provide *more than two filtering effects*" (emphasis added). The Examiner is invited to note that each pair (1 and 2, or 3 and 4) can provide only *one* filtering effect.

The purpose of the present invention is filtering different types of blood cells, like leukocytes, erythrocytes, hematoblasts and serums (page 4, line 16), of "different sizes" (page 2, line 1). It follows that the width of the opening in layer 3 must be smaller than that in layer 1. Thus, the new claim language is supported in the disclosure.

The Rejections. Claims 1, 5, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Chan '422. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, now the only independent claim, is amended to recite that the first channel portion "consists of" a plurality of channels, which distinguishes over the prior art. Chan shows a channel that is *not* a filter. Chan's filters 402, 502, are "porous membranes" rather than

channels (¶[0025]). Koehler also discloses the use of porous filters, called "frits" (col. 1, line 51 and col. 4, line 56), for example, frit 226 in Fig. 3B (col. 7, line 41). There is no disclosure of filtering by channels in either reference.

Claim 1 is also amended to recite that the channels are all parallel and have openings of a same size. No filtering structure of the applied art discloses this feature.

Claim 4 was also rejected over Chan, and claim 7 was rejected over Koehler. Claim 7 now depends from claim 1, and these rejections are moot if claim 1 is allowed.

Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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